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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1913.

A FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE: THE FEE SYSTEM.

The demand of the people of Virginia for the abolition of the fee system of compensating public officials in Virginia and the substitution thereof of fixed salaries is stronger to-day than it ever was before. Public sentiment for this reform is more clearly evidenced in the press than it has ever been before. Discussion of the issue has brought forth good fruit. The fee system cannot endure the continuing light of publicity. "The time is ripe, and rotten ripe, for change."

"The fee system is the most important issue before the people of Virginia at the present time," declared H. W. Beatrice in accepting the chairmanship of the Citizens' Party of Norfolk last week. "There is not a more popular issue that can be brought before the people of this State than the fee system," declared Dr. Sparks W. Melton, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Norfolk, upon the same occasion. The Citizens' Party of Norfolk itself, an organization striving for the establishment of freedom of political opportunity and democratic government, is of the opinion that "the fee system is the head of all our political woes, that it has delayed and hindered, and is still delaying and hindering the material prosperity of this city; that it paralyzes individual effort and seeks to destroy independence of action in all fields of legitimate political endeavor, and renders abortive all attempts at civic betterment."

Do these pronouncements magnify the importance of the issue? Is this agitation over the fee system a mere tempest in a teapot? Is the question purely local? Is the movement much ado about nothing?

Let the States of the Union answer. The people of Illinois are demanding the abolition of the fee system. The people of Georgia are demanding the abolition of the fee system and have partly succeeded in doing away with it. The people of North Carolina are demanding the abolition of the fee system. The people of Delaware are demanding the abolition of the fee system and, obedient to their will, the State House of Representatives has passed a bill emasculating the system, all parties supporting the measure. The people of Maryland are demanding the abolition of the fee system and branch. The people of Texas are demanding the abolition of the fee system. The people of Alabama are demanding the abolition of the fee system, and there it has been partly destroyed. The people of Missouri are demanding the abolition of the fee system. It is not evident, therefore, that the cry of the people of Virginia is only symptomatic of a nationwide demand for the extirpation of the system.

Why do the people of Virginia desire the death of this system? Because it denies to them the right to know what compensation their public servants are receiving out of the public treasury. Because it enriches officeholders out of the people's pockets. Because it overpays certain officeholders several times the value of their services. Because it diverts great sums of public money into private channels, enlarges private fortunes and decreases public improvements. Because it is the meat upon which the officeholders trust feeds and grows great. Because it provides the sinews of war for the entrenched legions of invisible government. Because it appropriates public money to be used in the defeat of the people's welfare. Because some of its beneficiaries control and dictate legislation and compel and command legislators elected by the people to betray their public trusts. Because it enables some of its beneficiaries to exercise an absolute veto upon legislation. Because it prevents economy in government. Because it puts a premium upon servility instead of upon efficiency. Because it shuts the door upon progress in government. Because its very existence is a denial that the people shall rule. Because it hampers the way to better schools and better roads and lower taxes and better election laws and better social and political conditions and bids the people stand still.

The fee system is the root of a corrupt tree that brings forth evil fruit and the people are the growers that shall lay the axe to the root of the tree.

THE OUTLAY OF CAPITAL IN 1912.

The figures annually compiled by the Financial and Commercial Chronicle of the list of stocks and bonds on the New York Stock Exchange disclose some very significant tendencies during the past calendar year. Although the issue of securities for new capital was \$10,000,000 greater in 1912 than in 1911, it was \$124,000,000 or 20 per cent less than in 1910, and \$268,000,000 or 37 per cent smaller than the total in 1909. This condition of affairs is explained by the unfavorable condition of the money market both here and abroad and by

governmental action against railroads and other large corporations. The amount of railroad bonds listed was \$200,000,000 below the total par value placed on the market in 1910, and \$90,000,000 below the amount offered in 1909. Railroad stocks were also listed in comparatively small amounts in 1912. The total amount of this class of securities issued was \$68,000,000 less than in 1911, and \$225,000,000 less than in 1910. The transportation companies were forced to depend largely for new capital upon their unlisted short-term note issues. These statistics as to railroad securities issued are strongly corroborated by those published some weeks ago which clearly showed the tendency among investors during the past year to add to their holdings of industrial corporation securities in preference to the stocks and bonds of the railroad companies.

The dissolution of certain large corporations like the American Tobacco Company and the substitution for it of a number of smaller companies was a strong factor during 1912 in increasing the amount of listings on the New York Exchange. Almost equally as pronounced in this direction was the incorporation of business undertakings, as, for example, the Baldwin Locomotive Works and Woolworth Five-and-Ten-Cent Stores, which had previously been conducted on a private basis. The dissolution of several voting trusts, as of the International Mercantile Company and the Seaboard Air Line Holding Company, also increased the flotation of new securities.

One of the most striking facts developed by the statistics is the large growth in the listings of the securities of electric railway and lighting companies. The issue for Richmond of \$10,000,000 was among the largest flotations for this purpose during the past year. This class of securities, together with other public utilities, will probably be considered favorably by investors in the immediate future. Railroad stocks and bonds will, of course, be comparatively unpopular until the carriers are successful in securing the authority to advance freight rates, and the securities of a large class of industrial corporations will be looked upon with uncertainty until the proposed revision of the tariff has been accomplished.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION OF TAX REFORM.

Mark a progressive community—Facey Spring, Rockingham County. Its people are so keenly alive to the necessity for justice in taxation that they have decided to hold meetings in the town hall, at which every man can have an opportunity to discuss fully, freely and frankly the issue of tax reform. The first conference has already been held, and it is described by a participant as "one of the most enthusiastic meetings ever held here." The issue is large and complicated enough to supply topics for many a winter's evening.

Tax reform is so vital an issue that the people of every community in Virginia ought to enter into common discussions concerning it. Let the citizens secure the use of the nearest schoolhouse as a meeting place, perfect a simple organization, and determine upon a program of thorough airing of the tax question. Here is an opportunity for the schools to serve as community centers for the social and economic betterment of the people. There are in every city and town and hamlet and country community in Virginia men either qualified to lead debates upon tax problems or to prepare themselves for such leadership. Hundreds and hundreds of pages of information concerning the question in every phase can be secured for the asking. Practically the only cost that such meetings would impose would be in the energy of a few public-spirited individuals who would take the initiative in calling an organization meeting.

A better tax system means a better community. If the tax-dodger is made to do his share in sustaining the common obligation to the State, not only will the tax of the individual be less, but the benefit received out of the public treasury by each community will be more. When the State, through efficient tax laws, is enabled to collect from each man his due there will be more money for good roads, for better schools and for general community improvement.

Let every community hold meetings to discuss tax reform. Let the local candidates for the Legislature be invited to be present to state their positions as to the question and what they will do to secure justice in taxation if elected. Let them demonstrate to the people whether or not they possess sufficient information and breadth to legislate on the most important State issue of to-day.

GOOD ROADS MUST BE MAINTAINED.

Logan Waller Page, director of the Office of Public Roads, lately issued a warning that should be heeded by every community which has built, is building or is about to build good roads: It is just as necessary to maintain highways after they are built as it is to construct them. If they are not kept in condition, it is a waste of money to build them. Mr. Page says:

The people in many counties are filled with enthusiasm for road improvement and are hastening to spend enormous sums of money in the construction of superb roads, and yet, with few exceptions, they are making no provision to care for the roads after they are built. The same is true with reference to road construction under many of our State highway departments. To maintain the roads in good condition year after year requires a considerable annual outlay, but this outlay is infinitely less than the loss which must fall upon the people eventually if they allow their roads to go to ruin. Continuous, systematic maintenance must be provided if the

country is to get the benefit of the money spent on good roads. The reason why France has the best system of public roads in the world is because of the excellent patrol system in force, the Washington Post points out. For every mile of national highway there is a patrolman, who reports immediately any rut or break that demands repair. Some system of maintenance must be adopted by every community which has constructed improved highways. Roads cannot possess any permanent value unless they are systematically kept up. That fact was realized by the Richmond-to-Washington Highway Association when it provided in its constitution that a certain per cent of all funds subscribed should be set aside and applied to maintenance of way. Unless there is a definite method of upkeep, the money expended in road construction might just as well have been poured into the ocean.

THE FATHER OF TENNESSEE.

It is proposed that Tennessee's contribution to Statuary Hall, at Washington, shall be statues of Andrew Jackson and John Sevier. Every American school boy twelve years old is acquainted with the principal events in the life of "Old Hickory." Not so, however, as to John Sevier. Even the older general reading public knows of him and his achievements but vaguely. Yet few men figured more prominently, picturesquely, dramatically and usefully in the preformative, and the formative periods of the republic, and the more immediate subsequent period, than this native Virginian.

John Sevier, who was born in Rockingham County, Va., in 1745, was a soldier of both the Indian and Revolutionary Wars, a hero of Point Pleasant and King's Mountain, a statesman, and the first promoter of higher education west of the Alleghenies, where he established Washington College, Tennessee. The space he fills in American history, however, is perhaps more largely associated with the organization of the State of Franklin, in which he was the leading spirit and which at one time threatened civil war, into which there was the prospect of Virginia being dragged, owing to the discontent in her western counties. Colonel Arthur Campbell, county lieutenant of Washington County, had gone so far as to petition Congress to divide Virginia on the Alleghenies, and the result would have been, it is believed, union of the separated territory with the State of Franklin.

In his "Life of Patrick Henry" the late William Wirt Henry gives this account of the formation of Franklin and the influences that led thereto: "During the year 1775 there was an effort to divide the State of North Carolina against her consent, which threatened great danger to Virginia. In June, 1774, North Carolina considered a pair of Black Eyes." By gravity, she must have seen Elmer Jones coming home from the dance the other night. "I was identified with the public school work in Virginia, my native State, from 1866 to 1911. The educational situation in the State. The awakening in the State came about the time Mr. Eggleston was elected Superintendent of Public Instruction. A great deal had been said about improving educational conditions in the State. Speakers had spoken from Bristol to Norfolk about what ought to be done to make the schools better. Mr. Eggleston set himself to work. Terms were lengthened, salaries of teachers raised, better buildings were erected, taxes were increased, thousands of dollars were raised by private subscription, standards for teachers' qualifications were raised, and a general awakening was noted in the entire system. The State was growing. Now, to the point. Who took up this work? The Agricultural College? Not at all. This man Eggleston, who already had his hands full with wonderful skill as executive administrator, without impairing the work of the system in any way, he took up this work of blessing the rural life of Virginia and the results speak for themselves. In other States agricultural colleges took up the work of the Department of Education. In Virginia it was done and is now doing. I am in position to know that they have not done even with the machinery of a technically trained force behind them, in their States, what Eggleston has done in Virginia through the public school system, and, frequently, meeting with opposition of men who now cry out for an expert to go to V. P. I. to make the State blossom as a flower. The work at V. P. I. will follow the lines laid down by Eggleston in his administration of the State system, no matter who goes there.

Voice of the People

Indorses Mr. Eggleston for V. P. I. Presidency.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Since your issue of a good deal in your paper of late relative to the vacancy to be filled at V. P. I. Your

Another interesting fact associating him and his Franklin venture closely with the early history of Virginia is that William Graham, the first president of Old Liberty Hall Academy, the progenitor of Washington and Lee University, is said to have written the Constitution of the State of Franklin. Nothing could be more mete than that Tennessee should be represented in Statuary Hall by a statue of John Sevier, not only on his own account, but in recognition of his place in our history as a great national character.

Richard S. Whaley, a Charleston lawyer, will probably succeed the late George S. Logan as Representative in Congress from the First South Carolina District. Mr. Whaley, an alumnus of the University of Virginia, who was sometimes otherwise known as "Dixie," was for four years chairman of the Judiciary committee of the South Carolina House of Representatives, was twice speaker of that body, is now a member of it, and was a Wilson delegate to the Baltimore convention.

Spoken of as free for all, have you seen the whisky trust long t and out that the fellow that drinks it drink anything.

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

Bill's Mission. The other fellows went away and sought for pastures new. And wailed to make their fortunes as most young fellows do. The news came back from all of 'em; they got along first-rate. The only young man left around this town was just Bill Tate. The years went by and other men made fortunes by the score—but Bill Tate just set out in front of Tibbitts's grocery store.

The war came on and young men went and fit for Uncle Sam. They most all went except Bill Tate, who stayed serene and calm. The stories came back home of deeds of valor on the field. And when the home boys won a fight how all the church bells pealed. The folks at home were simply wild to hear the cannon roar. But Bill Tate just set out in front of Tibbitts's grocery store.

The time of peace and plenty came, and farmers tilled the soil; And artisans all bent their backs unto their daily toil. The busy milkmaid sang her song, the driver cracked his whip; The enginist sped with his train, the captain sailed his ship. Each one seemed bent with all his soul upon his daily chore. But Bill Tate just set out in front of Tibbitts's grocery store.

The other boys are dead and gone, their earthly troubles through; But Bill just seemed to linger on, as though always do. He ain't got nothing on his mind excepting his old hat; He doesn't worry even when the town goes Democratic. When Gabriel comes here to lead us to the other shore, He'll find Bill right out in front of Tibbitts's grocery store.

From the Hickeyville Clarion.

Mrs. Prof. Jikney says her son-in-law is doing quite well down to Louisville in the publishing business. He has wrote home he is now a bookmaker. Amarlah Tilson, our barber, has got a new man from down to the city on the third chair. Am says the new feller ain't much of a barber, but he can play the guitar divine, and that is all that's needed around a barber shop. Miss Amariy's Teeter, the new singer in the meeting house, has got a falsetto voice and a false set of teeth. T. Egbert Peavey says he has sent down to the city for a new pair of dancing pumps. Huh, who ever see a pump dance?

Deacon Pringle, our village attorney and notary public, is going around the country on a spellbindin' tour, as he wants to be elected highway commissioner in the spring. The deacon is a long Republican and has voted for Bryan only three times and Wilson only once. There may be some politicians on earth whose wives don't take in washin' by the day or week, but they don't live around these parts. Deacon Pringle is one of our most highly suspected citizens, and ought to win out, providin' he gets enough votes, which is rather skeptical at this writing. Miss Euphemia Perkins, our poetess of passion, has written a new poem, which is entitled "An Ode to a Pair of Black Eyes." By gravity, she must have seen Elmer Jones coming home from the dance the other night.

Bill Todhammer sent Preacher Good-belcher a mess of cow's liver last Monday, which was thankfully received and highly appreciated by the preacher. Uncle Bill is widely noted for his generosity, and we need more Todhammers in this community. Shorty Dixer and his disheveled sister, Sally, went over to Bean Creek to the dance last night and tipped the light fantastic too. They attracted much attention with their high kicking.

Times must be pickin' up consid'able. I see Uncle Ezra Harkins dropping a cent in the gum machine at Tibbitts's grocery last Wednesday. Uncle Ez never gambles unless times is good.

Caught on the Fly.

Laura Lean Jibbey says nine-tenths of the girls marry for love alone. At any rate, love is about all that nine-tenths of them get out of it.

A new "perfect woman" is discovered nearly every day, and there is some question as to whether there will be room in vaudeville for all of them.

Before a woman is married, she is pensive. Afterward, she is expensive.

A scientist claims that early man could not talk. He makes no such claim concerning woman, early or modern.

They are shipping prunes by parcel post. There is apparently no escape for the boarder now.

Those Boise editors who are in jail for contempt of court are receiving many flowers. Most editors have to wait until they are dead.

The Orient Railway has eleven receivers. After the receivers and the parlor car porter get theirs there can't be much left.

Mary Jordan says she hopes to marry a Westerner, but she hasn't selected him yet. Here's a chance for Death Valley Scotty.

An Eastern man asks: "Can Roosevelt really write history?" Write it? Why, thunder! He's the man who makes it.

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THE BIG WASHINGTON SUFFRAGIST PARADE.

By John T. McCutcheon.

[Copyright, 1913, By John T. McCutcheon.]

Miss Milholland, the "most beautiful girl in the suffrage movement," is to lead the big suffragist parade in Washington on March 3. She will ride a charger and will wear the livery of a herald of medieval times. Several hundred striking women garment workers from New York will march in rags and tatters to depict the injustice of the sweatshop system.



If they are going in for a historical pageant effect, why—



—not have groups showing the status of women in the past, or—



—why not have a group showing the status of many of them at present?

paper has taken the high stand that you want an expert man to assume the duties of president of that institution. I want to endorse the stand you take, and box the privilege of making a few observations about what has been done in Virginia along the line of improving rural conditions.

I was identified with the public school work in Virginia, my native State, from 1866 to 1911. The educational situation in the State. The awakening in the State came about the time Mr. Eggleston was elected Superintendent of Public Instruction. A great deal had been said about improving educational conditions in the State. Speakers had spoken from Bristol to Norfolk about what ought to be done to make the schools better. Mr. Eggleston set himself to work. Terms were lengthened, salaries of teachers raised, better buildings were erected, taxes were increased, thousands of dollars were raised by private subscription, standards for teachers' qualifications were raised, and a general awakening was noted in the entire system. The State was growing. Now, to the point. Who took up this work? The Agricultural College? Not at all. This man Eggleston, who already had his hands full with wonderful skill as executive administrator, without impairing the work of the system in any way, he took up this work of blessing the rural life of Virginia and the results speak for themselves. In other States agricultural colleges took up the work of the Department of Education. In Virginia it was done and is now doing. I am in position to know that they have not done even with the machinery of a technically trained force behind them, in their States, what Eggleston has done in Virginia through the public school system, and, frequently, meeting with opposition of men who now cry out for an expert to go to V. P. I. to make the State blossom as a flower. The work at V. P. I. will follow the lines laid down by Eggleston in his administration of the State system, no matter who goes there.

The corn club movement, the educational fair movement, the manual training movement, the domestic science work and all the other movements came out of that office in Richmond. I assisted in organizing the first educational fair ever held in the South myself, and I know that this work was pushed by the State Department. I need a man who sees the needs of the State, who has brains enough not to tell how many ounces of acid phosphate it takes to produce a bushel of corn, but to select a man who does know these things and put him at it—and keep him at it. Mr. Eggleston has been called to engineer the educational activities of the rural parts of the nation. He will do a great work. I am sorry the State has lost him. It could ill afford it. There is a proverb: "A foot's eyes are in the ends of the earth." JAS. S. THOMAS, Professor Secondary Education, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Long-Distance Assessments for Taxation.

A Storm has been spending considerable time (with others) lately at Fairfax, in obedience to orders from the Circuit Court, looking into the manner of ascertaining the value of property subject to taxation. It is to be hoped that before those appointed in this matter complete their labors they will look into the matter of equalizing taxation. There seems to be a very great difference on whose property the assessors report on, no matter if the prospects are adjoining. In many cases. We are convinced that the assessors do not go on the property at all before making the assessments.—Lexington Correspondence Fairfax Herald.

Cash Getting Low.

"Will Gold Give Out?" asks the Richmond Journal. We cannot answer for the rest of the world, but as for ourselves, we do not hesitate to say that our supply is getting pretty near the giving out stage.—Chase City Progress.

An Aged Cut-Up.

General Sickles continued to cut up to a green old age.—Alexandria News.

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Savings deposits from \$1.00 upwards bear 3 per cent known for their integrity and business ability.

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